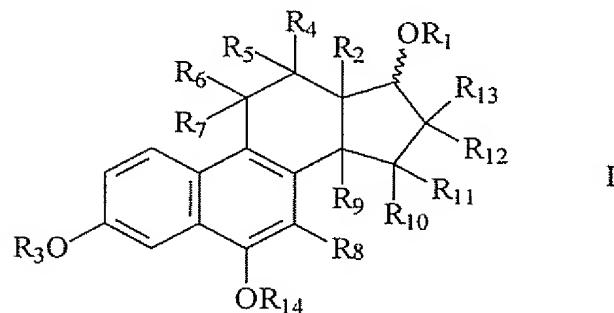


This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application:

### **Listing of the Claims:**

1. (Previously Presented) A compound represented by Formula I:



or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof,

wherein:

the bond represented by the wavy line may be a single or double bond such that when the wavy line is a single bond,  $R_1$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, sulfate and glucuronide or other esters, and when the wavy line is a double bond,  $R_1$  does not exist;

R<sub>2</sub> is lower alkyl;

$R_3$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, sulfate and glucuronide;

$R_4$  through  $R_7$  and  $R_{10}$  through  $R_{13}$  may be the same or different and each represents hydrogen, hydroxy, ketone, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, halogen, or carbonyl group;

$R_8$  and  $R_9$  are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, halogen, and carbonyl groups; and

$R_{14}$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, sulfate and glucuronide; said compound being present in chemically pure form.

2-3. (Canceled)

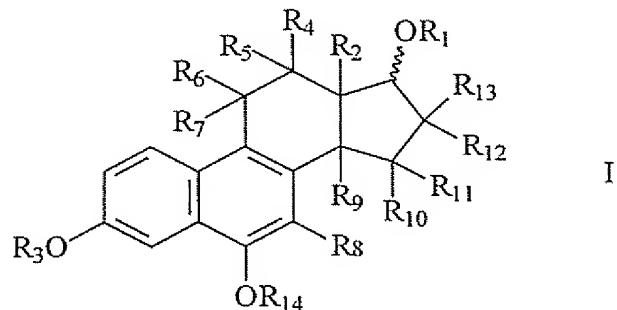
4. (Original) The compound according to Claim 1, wherein said compound is greater than about 95% pure.

5. (Original) The compound according to Claim 1, wherein R<sub>2</sub> is C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, R<sub>4</sub>-R<sub>12</sub> are hydrogen and R<sub>13</sub> is hydrogen or ethynyl.

6. (Previously Presented) The compound according to Claim 1, wherein when R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen, the compound has a  $\beta$  orientation at the C17 position.

7-9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition incorporating a compound represented by Formula I:



or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof,

wherein:

the bond represented by the wavy line may be a single or double bond such that when the wavy line is a single bond, R<sub>1</sub> is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, sulfate and glucuronide and other esters, and when the wavy line is a double bond, R<sub>1</sub> does not exist;

R<sub>2</sub> is lower alkyl;

R<sub>3</sub> is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, sulfate and glucuronide;

R<sub>4</sub> through R<sub>7</sub> and R<sub>9</sub> through R<sub>13</sub> may be the same or different and each represents hydrogen, hydroxy, ketone, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, halogen, or carbonyl group;

R<sub>8</sub> and R<sub>9</sub> are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, halogen, and carbonyl groups; and

$R_{14}$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, sulfate and glucuronide; said compound being present in chemically pure form.

11-12. (Canceled)

13. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 10, wherein said compound is greater than about 95% pure.

14. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 10, wherein  $R_2$  is  $C_1$  to  $C_4$  alkyl,  $R_4$ - $R_{12}$  are hydrogen and  $R_{13}$  is hydrogen or ethynyl.

15. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 10, wherein when  $R_1$  is hydrogen, the compound has a  $\beta$  orientation at the C17 position.

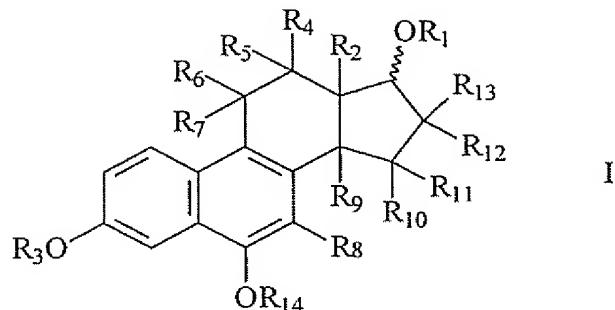
16. (Canceled)

17. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 10, wherein the composition further comprises at least one additional pharmaceutically active ingredient.

18. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 17, wherein the at least one additional pharmaceutically active ingredient is selected from the group consisting of estrogenic compounds, androgenic compounds, progestin compounds, vasodilation agents, calcium salts, and vitamin D, and mixtures and combinations thereof.

19-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) A method of treating a subject in need of estrogen therapy, said method comprising administering an effective amount of a compound represented by Formula I:



or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof,

wherein:

the bond represented by the wavy line may be a single or double bond such that when the wavy line is a single bond, R<sub>1</sub> is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, sulfate and glucuronide or other esters, and when the wavy line is a double bond, R<sub>1</sub> does not exist;

R<sub>2</sub> is lower alkyl;

R<sub>3</sub> is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, sulfate and glucuronide;

R<sub>4</sub> through R<sub>7</sub> and R<sub>10</sub> through R<sub>13</sub> may be the same or different and each represents hydrogen, hydroxy, ketone, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, halogen, or carbonyl group;

R<sub>8</sub> and R<sub>9</sub> are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, halogen, and carbonyl groups; and

R<sub>14</sub> is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, sulfate and glucuronide; said compound being present in chemically pure form.

22-23. (Canceled)

24. (Original) The method according to Claim 21, wherein said compound is greater than about 95% pure.

25. (Original) The method according to Claim 21, wherein R<sub>2</sub> is C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, R<sub>4</sub>-R<sub>12</sub> are hydrogen and R<sub>13</sub> is hydrogen or ethynyl.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 21, wherein when R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen, the compound has a  $\beta$  orientation at the C17 position.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 21, wherein said compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is administered as part of a pharmaceutical composition, said composition further comprising at least one additional pharmaceutically active ingredient.

29. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 28, wherein the at least one additional pharmaceutically active ingredient is selected from the group consisting of estrogenic compounds, androgenic compounds, progestin compounds, vasodilation agents, calcium salts, and vitamin D, and mixtures and combinations thereof.

30-31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 21, wherein the condition treatable by estrogen therapy is selected from the group consisting of vasomotor symptoms, atrophic vaginitis, osteoporosis, hypoestrogenism due to hypogonadism, hypoestrogenism due to castration, hypoestrogenism due to primary ovarian failure, breast cancer in selected persons with metastatic disease, advanced androgen-dependent carcinoma of the prostate, abnormal uterine bleeding, and kraurosis vulvae.

33-36. (Canceled)